



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 1, 1999

S. 695

**A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish
a national cemetery for veterans in the Atlanta, Georgia,
metropolitan area, in Southwestern Pennsylvania, and in the
Miami, Florida, metropolitan area**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
on June 23, 1999*

SUMMARY

S. 695 would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish additional national cemeteries for veterans in the Atlanta, Georgia, metropolitan area, in southwestern Pennsylvania, and in the Miami, Florida, metropolitan area. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$4 million in 2000 and \$55 million over the 2000-2006 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Because the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. S. 695 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of the bill is shown in Table 1. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 700 (veterans affairs).

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

Based on the costs of cemeteries currently under construction, CBO estimates that the planning and construction of the three national cemeteries would cost \$55 million over the 2000-2006 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. In 2000, costs of about \$4 million would stem from environmental impact studies and the acquisition of land for the

TABLE 1. ESTIMATED CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION UNDER S. 695, AS ORDERED REPORTED BY THE SENATE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (By fiscal year, in millions of dollars)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Estimated Authorization Level	0	4	0	6	0	45
Estimated Outlays	0	1	3	3	3	15

three cemeteries. CBO estimates that the design and planning of the cemeteries, which would take about two years to complete, would cost about \$6 million. The estimate assumes that construction would begin in the fifth year and would take about three years to complete. Depending on the size of the cemeteries, costs would range from about \$30 million to \$60 million to construct the three cemeteries. CBO estimates that appropriations of about \$45 million would be necessary in 2004, and that the resulting outlays would occur over a three-year period.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 695 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill could result in a loss of tax revenues to local governments if private lands were to be acquired for this public use. Because sites for these cemeteries have not been chosen, CBO has no basis for estimating the loss of revenues, if any.

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